

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC Stendal Airfield

EVALUATION  PLACE OBTAINED  25XDATE OF CONTENT  638574DATE OBTAINED  DATE PREPARED 4 August 1954REFERENCES PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)  25X1REMARKS 

This is UNEVALUATED 25X1

1. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Stendal airfield between 17 May and 5 July 1954:

17 May. Twenty-four Il-10s, 4 Po-2s and 2 Yak-14s were parked at the dispersal areas. Between 0715 and 0920, a Li-2 approached 5 times and each time dropped 11 parachutists from an altitude of 400 meters. The jumpers landed on the landing field. The parachutes opened about 100 meters under the aircraft. A gray cloth, about 50 cm square, would fall to the ground between two chutes each. The parachutists after landing were trucked back to the hangars.

24 May. Between 0730 and 1030, the same jumps were made as on 17 May. Eleven men were dropped approximately every 35 minutes.

31 May and 1 June. Between 0600 and 0700, an Il-10 with the No 4 was observed aloft probably making weather reconnaissance flights.

4 June. For the first time, 32 Il-10s, 4 Po-2s and 2 Yak-14s were observed on the dispersal area at the eastern edge of the landing field.

5 June. Between 0530 and 0930, 7 approaches were made by a Li-2 dropping 7 parachutists each time.

6 to 14 June. Individual flights were occasionally made. A total of 32 Il-10s were still parked at the field.

15 June. At 2000, 16 Il-10s took off in flights at intervals of about 30 seconds heading west. The aircraft apparently returned to the field about 2230 as inferred from the noise of engines.

17 June. At 2000, 24 Il-10s took off and headed west flying in 2 formations of 12 each. The aircraft probably again returned about 2230.

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18 June. Between 0645 and 0720, a formation of 24 Il-10s practiced flying over Stendal. [redacted]

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22 June. About 0630, another formation of 24 aircraft [redacted] was observed aloft.

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5 July. A total of 31 Il-10s [redacted] were counted at the field. Between 0720 and 0940, 10 parachutists made 7 jumps each. 1

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2. Five aircraft revetments, about 40 meters apart, were observed about 400 meters southeast of the easternmost hangar, about 25 meters west of Borstel-Stendal road. An additional 15 revetments were located along the southern edge of the field beginning at the Borstel-Stendal road to as far as about 500 meters east of the firing range. The open sides of all revetments pointed to the field center. A wooded area, about 300 meters square and surrounded by a board fence, was located northwest of the field, about 500 meters northeast of Karolinenhof. A watchtower was located at each of the four corners. Earth bunkers probably storing ammunition were located in the camp. 2

3. In early July, 6 x 37-mm AA guns were observed in the AA gun emplacement about 500 meters east of Borstel-Stendal road, in line with the field center. 3 Motor vehicles observed entering and leaving the field [redacted]

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4. On 16 June, 6 x 37-mm AA guns were observed in the AA quartering area opposite the airfield and 6 x 37-mm AA guns just north of the quartering buildings. Thirty to 40 soldiers received training in the field emplacement outside of the quartering area. The cleaning of guns was being performed in the installation. An additional 30 soldiers were engaged in infantry training. At 1230, 98 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets marched into the quartering area. The AA barracks installation was still occupied by 300 to 400 men. [redacted] 3

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1. [redacted] Comment. From the beginning of 1954 to early April 1954, about 12 Il-10s were stationed at Stendal airfield as against 40 to 50 Il-10s during the last 6 months of 1953. Although some aircraft may continuously have been parked in the hangars, it is believed that the aircraft strength had been reduced. About 25 Il-10s were observed at the field during May 1954 and 32 Il-10s during June. It is believed that the reconnaissance regiment is no longer stationed in Stendal, as it is assumed that the ground attack regiment is equipped with about 35 Il-10s and the reconnaissance regiment with about 15 Il-10s. This assumption was previously voiced. [redacted]

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2. Comment. It is known from previous reports that 35 to 40 aircraft revetments were built at Stordal airfield. Source 1 has probably not seen all of the revetments. The ammunition dump was reported previously.

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3. Comment. The AA gun emplacement has been reported several times.

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